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COUNTRY : USSR

SUBJECT : 1. The Supreme Military Council of the USSR
2. High-Level Soviet Military Personnel Changes

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1. At the end of April 1962, the Supreme Military Council (Vysshiy voyennyi sovet) met under the chairmanship of Khrushchev. Khrushchev spoke at length about the major role of the artillery and missile troops in the future. The following decisions were made about changes in the top command level:

- a. Marshal of the Soviet Union Kirill S. Moskalenko was appointed to the group of advisors to the Minister of Defense, in place of the ailing Marshal of the Soviet Union Konstantin K. Rokossovskiy.

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- b. Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey S. Biryuzov was named to replace Moskalenko as Commander - in-Chief of Missile Troops.
- c. Marshal of Aviation Vladimir A. Sudets was appointed Commander of Antiair Defense (PVO) of the Country. [Sudets has been Commander of Soviet Long Range Aviation for several years.]
- d. Aleksey A. Yepishev was named Chief of the Chief Political Directorate in place of Marshal of the Soviet Union Filip I. Golikov. Golikov went mad. Yepishev, a former ambassador, was given the rank of general of the army. [Yepishev was ambassador to Yugoslavia until mid-May 1962.]
- e. Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ivanovich Krylov will be named Commander of Ground Troops in place of Marshal of the Soviet Union Vasiliy Ivanovich Chuykov. [Krylov is Commander of the Moscow Military District.]

2. The Supreme Military Council (Vysshiiy voyennyi soviet) is an operational and very flexible group attached to the Ministry of Defense and under the jurisdiction of Commander-in-Chief Khrushchev.¹ It is sometimes called the Main (Glavnyi) Military Council. All commanders-in-chief of the various branches of the USSR armed forces are automatically council members. The council holds regularly scheduled meetings but also frequently meets whenever the need arises. It is not obligatory to assemble a quorum. On occasion Khrushchev may meet with the Minister of Defense, the Chief of Staff, Anastas Mikoyan, Frol Kozlov, and several commanders of the combat armies concerned; this would be considered a meeting of the Supreme Military Council. Depending on the matter at hand, members of the Central Committee, representatives from the State Committees for Electronic or Defense Technology, or scientists from the Academy of Sciences may be summoned to attend Council meetings.

3. The special advisory group is made up of senior marshals and generals of the Soviet Union and is also attached to the Minister of Defense. Marshal of the Soviet Union Kirill A. Meretskov is head of the special advisory group, which includes General of the Army I. V. Tyulenev.

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